

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 SABELITA HAWKINS,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
14 et al.,

15 Defendants.

CASE NO. C16-0498JLR

ORDER

16 Before the court is Plaintiff Sabelita Hawkins's "motion to hold proceedings in  
17 abeyance due to illness." (Mot. (Dkt. # 111).) Because the February 10, 2025 trial date  
18 is fast approaching (*see* 2/7/24 Min. Order (Dkt. # 70)), the court exercises its discretion  
19 under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 1 to decide the motion before its February 7, 2025  
20 noting date. *See* Fed R. Civ. P. 1. The court GRANTS in part and DENIES in part Ms.  
21 Hawkins's motion.

22 //

1 On December 15, 2024, Tuella Sykes, counsel for Ms. Hawkins, suffered a head  
2 injury after falling while walking her dog. The court denied Ms. Sykes's earlier requests  
3 to continue this matter in light of her frequent last-minute and post-deadline requests for  
4 extensions of court deadlines. (*See* 1/2/25 Order (Dkt. # 106) at 3-5 (discussing Ms.  
5 Sykes's pattern of late filings); 1/3/25 Order (Dkt. # 108) (denying Ms. Hawkins's  
6 motion to reconsider the January 3, 2025 order).) Ms. Sykes now provides additional  
7 medical records that include a diagnosis of post-concussion syndrome and her  
8 physician's referral for vestibular physical therapy and to Harborview Medical Center for  
9 a post-concussion and traumatic brain injury evaluation. (Sykes Decl. (Dkt. # 112) ¶¶  
10 6-10; *see id.*, Ex. A at 4.) She asks the court to "hold all proceedings . . . in abeyance  
11 until April 15, 2025" and to extend all deadlines falling on or after December 15, 2024, to  
12 allow time for her symptoms to resolve. (Mot. at 7-8.)

13 The court DENIES Ms. Hawkins's request to hold this case in abeyance but  
14 GRANTS her request to continue the trial date and to extend all pre-trial deadlines falling  
15 on or after December 15, 2024 (Dkt. # 110).

16 1. The court CONTINUES the bench trial in this matter to **June 9, 2025**, and  
17 VACATES the current pretrial schedule (Dkt. # 70). This trial date is firm. The court  
18 warns Ms. Hawkins and Ms. Sykes that the court will deny any future motion by Ms.  
19 Hawkins to continue trial or to extend deadlines. Ms. Sykes is advised to associate with  
20 co-counsel to ensure that Ms. Hawkins meets all pretrial deadlines. Alternatively, Ms.  
21 Hawkins may locate replacement counsel.

22 //

1           2.       The court STRIKES Defendants' pending motions *in limine* (Dkt. # 104)  
2 without prejudice to renewing those motions on or before **April 28, 2025**.

3           3.       The Clerk is DIRECTED to issue a revised scheduling order that resets the  
4 motions *in limine* deadline and all subsequent pretrial deadlines in accordance with the  
5 new trial date.

6           Dated this 21st day of January, 2025.

7  
8 

9 JAMES L. ROBART  
10 United States District Judge  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22